

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /061 W

-----039361 090127Z /75

R 082035Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8698

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, EGEN, CO, PN, VE, JM, MX, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ' INITIAL REACTION TO BOGOTA SUMMIT

1. UPON ARRIVAL IN CARACS AUGUST 6, PRESIDENT PEREZ, IN BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE, PRONOUNCED BOGOTA MEETING A SUCCESS. HE SAID THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND THE RESULTS POSITIVE, ADDING THAT THE PARTICIPANTS ARE CONVINCED THAT A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY IS IMMINENT. ACCORDING TO PEREZ, NO OTHER MEETINGS OF THIS KIND ARE PLANNED AND THE PURPOSE OF BOGOTA MEETING WAS SIMPLY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ABOUT A PROBLEM THAT INVOLVES "SPIRITUALLY" ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. WHEN QUERIED IF HE DISCUSSED VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN BOUNDARY (DIFERENDO) ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN, PEREZ REPLIED BRIEFLY THAT THEY DISCUSSED NOTHING OF A BILATERAL NATURE. PEREZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE OTHER FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE CONSIDERED: NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION IN LATIN AMERICA, GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE, A WORLD COFFEE FUND, AND PLANS FOR CELEBRATING BOLIVAR'S 200TH BIRTHDAY IN CARACAS IN 1983.

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2. PRESS REPORTS FROM BOGOTA QUOTED LOPEZ MICHELSEN TO THE EFFECT THAT HE AND PEREZ HELD PRIVATE TALKS AND THAT THE TWO LEADERS AGREED TO A SET OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE VENEZUELAN DIFERENDO ISSUE. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS FROM COLOMBIA, THIS ISSUE WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A DECEMBER MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS. LOPEZ MICHELSEN IS ALSO QUOTED HERE AS STATING THE THE

SUCCESS OF FUTURE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONTINGENT ON PUBLIC OPINION AND THE APPROVAL OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY ACCOMPANIED PEREZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER SIMON CONSALVI ON THEIR FLIGHT FROM MAIQUETIA TO BOGOTA. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT DURING THE TRIP, MANLEY AND CONSALVI DISCUSSED VENEZUELAN-CARIBBEAN RELATIONS. CONSALVI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT VENEZUELA WOULD BE MOST ACTIVE IN THE CARIBBEAN, THE AREA OF ITS FIRST PRIORITY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. CONSALVI SAID THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A TRIP TO THE ISLAND REPUBLICS OF THE CARIBBEAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: PEREZ' PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE CONFINED SPECIFICALLY TO THE POINTS IN THE BOGOTA SUMMIT DECLARATION. ALTHOUGH PEREZ DENIED THAT HE AND LOPEZ MICHELSEN DISCUSSED BILATERAL MATTERS, WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE TWO LEADERS PROBABLY DID CONSULT ON FURTHER STEPS TO SETTLE THE GULF OF VENEZUELA BOUNDARY ISSUE. CONSALVI'S REFERENCES TO A MORE ACTIVE GOV CARIBBEAN POLICY ARE IN LINE WITH PEREZ' INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA07831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770285-0653
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770887/aaaacvge.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1678441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT PEREZ' INITIAL REACTION TO BOGOTA SUMMIT
TAGS: PBOR, EGEN, CO, PN, VE, JM, MX, CS, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cfd65160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009